Applicants note that the Examiner did not consider the February 25, 2002 and January 19, 2001 Information Disclosure Statements. Copies of said Information Disclosure Statements are attached for the consideration by the Examiner.

Claim 13 stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Claim 13 was amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 32, 38 and 40-48 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being unpatentable over Sizer (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,086); claims 6, 10, 15, 21, 24, 28, 33 and 39 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sizer in view of Souissi (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,300); and claims 7, 8, 12, 13, 16-19, 25, 26, 30, 31, 34-37 and 49-56 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sizer in view of Wiedeman U.S. Patent No. 6,160,994). As indicated above, claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 40 and 43-58 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections with respect to these claims are rendered moot. These rejections with respect to the remaining claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37-39, 41, 42 and 49-56 are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in these claims are not taught or suggested by Sizer, Souissi or Wiedeman whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the independent claims 1-4, 41 and 42 in order more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to these claims to more clearly recite unique features of the present invention. The present invention provides an electronic couponing method and system in which coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number is wirelessly transferred to a first portable terminal and the coupon information is stored in the first portable terminal. The coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services. A representation of the transfer coupon information can be displayed on the first portable terminal and during a transaction the coupon information can be redeemed by wirelessly transferring at least part of the coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to another terminal. The another terminal validates the transferred information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods or services involved in the transaction. If the coupon information is validated, the discount provided by the coupon information is calculated so as to enable the purchase of the goods and/or services at a reduced amount.

Another unique of the feature of the electronic couponing method and system of the present invention is to allow for a user of a portable terminal to aid in the distribution of the coupon information to other users by allowing the user of a first portable to wirelessly transfer at least part of the coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal thereby permitting the users of each of the first and second portable terminals to redeem the coupon information during different transactions.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Sizer whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record particularly Souissi and Wiedeman.

Sizer teaches a method and apparatus for initiating a telephone transaction by a portable capture device based on optically scanned information. Sizer teaches in Figs. 1 and 5 that a scanner unit 50 is made a part of a portable capture device 110 wherein the scanner unit 50 provides a scanning head 51 positioned on the bottom of the capture device 110 so that the scanning head 51 can be moved over marks (coupons) to be optically read. The scanning unit 50 taught by Sizer is wired directly to a microprocessor 220 of the capture device 110. The scanner unit 50 forming a part of the capture device 110 can communicate with the microprocessor 220 through the hardwire link 51B or through a transceiver 52 so as to transfer scanned information to the capture device 110.

Sizer teaches that the scanner unit 50 is used in a manner so as to optically read and store in the capture device 110 a mark having a barcode or the like from an advertisement on a page of a magazine. The scanner unit 50 being a part of the capture device 110 thereby causes the wireless portable capture device 110 to obtain encoded data related to the scanned mark. The capture device 110 in response to the encoded data from the scanner unit 50 initiates a transaction or originates a telephone call to a remote location or device as represented by agent

terminals 120, 121, interactive service platform 130 or a point of sale system (col. 4, lines 37-44 and col. 5, lines 36-47). Sizer teaches that the capture device 110 can communicate with the remote locations wirelessly over a wireless link to an associated base station 109, by direct connection to a telephone line 112, by a wireless call placed to a mobile telephone switching office 140 (col. 5, lines 49-67) or by direct connection via a docking station or other interface (col. 6, lines 12-17).

Therefore, as is quite clear from the above, Sizer fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Particularly, Sizer fails to teach or suggest that the coupon information including a coupon ID number is wirelessly transferred to the first portable terminal and stored therein as in the present invention. Sizer teaches that the coupon information is obtained by the scanner unit 50 via the scanner head 51 of the capture device 110 by scanning the scanner head 51 across the barcode or other type of mark of the coupon. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Sizer that the coupon information is wirelessly transferred to the portable terminal as in the present invention.

Therefore, Sizer fails to teach or suggest wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon ID number to a first portable terminal and storing the coupon information therein as recited in the claims.

It should be noted that the coupon information as recited in the claims entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the goods and/or services during a transaction. Further, the coupon information as recited in the claims includes a coupon ID number. Such a coupon ID number can be used so as to

particularly identify the particular goods and services to which the discount applies without the need for the entire image of the coupon to be transferred to the portable terminal as in conventional systems. Applicants fail to find any teaching or suggestion Sizer that the mark (the alleged coupon information) includes a coupon ID number as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Sizer fails to teach or suggest coupon information including a coupon ID number wherein the coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase goods and/or services as recited in the claims.

Sizer teaches that the encoded data obtained from the scanner unit 50 by the capture device 110 can be transmitted to, for example, a point of sale terminal. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion that upon the wireless transfer of the coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first terminal to the point of sale terminal, redemption is initiated causing the point of sale terminal to validate the transferred coupon information and calculate the discount provided by the coupon information if the coupon is validated as in the present invention.

Therefore, Sizer fails to teach or suggest wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction, validating in the another terminal the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction and if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided information to the purchaser of the goods and/or services as recited in the claims.

The present invention as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the present application provides a step 130. Step 130 of the present invention as described above allows the user of the first portable terminal to transfer the coupon information including the coupon ID number to another portable terminal so as to aid in wider distribution of the coupon information and to permit the user of each of the portable terminals to redeem the coupon information during different transactions. These features of the present invention are recited, for example, in claims 2, 4, 41 and 42 and claims which depend therefrom. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Sizer. In the Office Action the Examiner alleges that such a teaching can be found in Sizer at coll. 5, lines 47-48. Col. 5, lines 47-48 of Sizer merely states that:

> "the remote location can be agent terminals 120 or 121, interactive service platform 130, or a point of sale system, and the communication between the capture device 110 and the remote location may be one-way or two-way".

This teaching of Sizer merely corresponds to the remote locations to which the capture device 110 can transfer the encoded data obtained from the scanner unit 50. Sizer does not teach there these remote locations are a portable terminal in the present invention. These remote locations are not taught by Sizer as being another portable terminal such as the capture device 110 in order for it to correspond to the features of the present invention recited in claims 2, 3, 41 and 42.

Therefore, Sizer fails to teach or suggest wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal to affect wider distribution of the coupon

information so as to permit users of the first and second portable terminals to redeem the coupon information during different transactions as recited in the claims.

Therefore, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Sizer. Accordingly, the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Sizer is traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The above noted deficiencies of Sizer are not supplied by any of the other references of record particularly Souissi and Wiedeman.

Souissi is relied upon by the Examiner for alleged teaching that coupon information can be transferred to the first portable terminal with a bluetooth radio link. Souissi merely teaches a method for dynamic spectrum allocation. Applicants fail to find any teaching whatsoever at any point in Souissi that coupon information including a coupon ID number is transferred to a first portable terminal via bluetooth radio link as recited in the claims. Further, Souissi does not supply any of the other deficiencies noted above with respect to Sizer relative to the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims. Therefore, combining the teachings of Sizer with Souissi still fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims.

Therefore, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Sizer in view of Souissi is traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The above noted deficiencies of Sizer are also not supplied by Wiedeman. Wiedeman is merely relied upon by the Examiner for an alleged teaching that at

least part of the coupon information is transferred to the portable terminal via the internet and that at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable terminal to another terminal via the internet. Claims which are directed to these features were canceled being that the claims now more clearly recite that the coupon information is wirelessly transferred to the first portable terminal so as to be stored therein and the coupon information is wirelessly transferred from the first portable terminal so as to redeem the coupon information. Thus, the transfer into and from the first portable terminal occurs via a wireless link or the like. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Wiedeman. Thus, combining the teachings of Wiedeman with Sizer still fails to teach or suggest the numerous features of the present invention shown above not to be taught or suggested by Sizer.

Therefore the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of the claims as being unpatentable over Sizer in view Wiedeman is traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

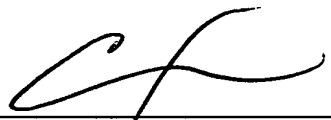
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-56.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37-39, 41, 42 and 49-56 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (0171.37906X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 23, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 40 and 43-58 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend claims * as follows:

1. (Amended) An electronic couponing method comprising the steps of:

wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to a first portable terminal and storing ~~same~~the coupon information therein, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services;

displaying a representation of the transferred coupon information on the first portable terminal; ~~and~~

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction;

validating in the another terminal the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction; and

if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services.

2. (Amended) An electronic couponing method comprising the steps of:

wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to a first portable terminal and storing ~~same~~the coupon information therein, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services;

displaying a representation of the transferred coupon information on the first portable terminal; and

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

3. (Amended) An electronic couponing system comprising:

a first portable terminal having a memory;

a first transfer unit for wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to said first portable terminal, said first portable terminal storing ~~same~~the coupon information in said memory thereof, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services;

a display disposed within said first portable terminal for displaying a representation of said transferred coupon information from said first portable terminal; and

a second transfer unit for wirelessly transferring at least part of said stored coupon information including the coupon ID number to another terminal for redemption during a transaction,

wherein said another terminal validates the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction, and if the coupon information is validated, calculates the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services.

4. (Amended) An electronic couponing system comprising:

a first portable terminal having a memory;

a first transfer unit for wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to said portable terminal, said portable terminal storing ~~same~~the coupon information in said memory thereof, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services;

a display disposed within said first portable terminal for displaying a representation of said transferred coupon information;

a second portable terminal; and

a second transfer unit for wirelessly transferring at least part of said stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from said first portable terminal to said second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable to another terminal via the Internet via a wireless link.

41. (Amended) An electronic couponing method comprising the steps of:

wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to a first portable terminal and storing ~~same~~the coupon information therein, said coupon information entitled the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services;

displaying a representation of the transferred coupon information on the first portable terminal;

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction;

validating in the another terminal the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction;

if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services; and

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of

said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

42. (Amended) An electronic couponing system comprising:

a first portable terminal having a memory;

a first transfer unit for wirelessly transferring coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to said first portable terminal, said first portable terminal storing ~~same~~the coupon information in said memory thereof, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services;

a display disposed within said first portable terminal for displaying a representation of said transferred coupon information;

a second transfer unit for wirelessly transferring at least part of said stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from said first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction,

wherein said another terminal validates the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction, and if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services;

a second portable terminal; and

a third transfer unit for transferring at least part said stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from said first portable terminal to said second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit

users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.